

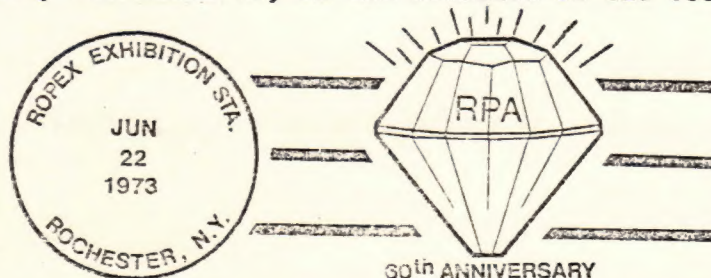
The Rochester Philatelic Association welcomes you to the First Day Ceremony of the Post Rider commemorative postage stamp, "Rise of the Spirit of Independence". Perhaps this is the first ceremony of its kind in which you have had the personal opportunity to participate. If so, and if you are a beginning or non-collector, the following information may be of interest to you...

Dating back a number of decades, "first day cover" became a most important term in the stamp collecting vocabulary. A "first day cover" is a special souvenir envelope ("cover") bearing a special postage stamp, and cancelled on the stamp's first day of sale. Today, June 22, 1973, the Post Rider stamp is only available for legal sale through the Rochester, New York post office. General sale of this stamp will be Saturday, June 23rd.

A first day cover is primarily a souvenir of the event, and collected by many thousands of philatelists, in the United States and throughout the world. The hobby does not dictate how or what a collector should collect. If you are not completely familiar with the hobby, perhaps you may find the following hints rather helpful.

- Most collectors prefer to have a "cachet" on the first day cover. A cachet is a specially-prepared, printed design on the envelope to add appeal to the collectors item. Private firms manufacture many types of cachets; available at ROPEX is the official exhibition cachet/first day cover issued by the Rochester Philatelic Association and a special cachet prepared by the Junior Philatelic Society of America. While the supply lasts, blank envelopes are available for collectors wishing to prepare their own covers for first day cancellation. Also available are prepared covers in many combinations---ensuring you of a clean, unaddressed souvenir cover. All items are on sale at the ROPEX exhibition for a nominal charge.

In addition to the special "First Day of Issue" cancellation now available, the cancel illustrated below can also be applied to envelopes. This cancellation was prepared especially for ROPEX 73, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary.



Have a question? An official identified as a member of the Rochester Philatelic Association would be pleased to assist you at this historic Rochester event...!